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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method in a data processing system for presenting
2 status information associated with a hierarchical
3 operation, the method comprising the steps of:
4 displaying a plurality of status indicators in a
5 view, each status indicator of the plurality of status
6 indicators indicating a status of a particular
7 hierarchical operation, said particular hierarchical
8 operation being performed for a corresponding one of said
9 each status indicator; and
10 arranging said plurality of said status indicators
11 in a Z-order layering in said view.
- 1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said view comprises a
2 window.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said view comprises a
2 dialog box.
- 1 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the hierarchical
2 operation comprises a copy operation.
- 1 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the hierarchical
2 operation comprises an operation for copying a plurality
3 of data files.
- 1 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the hierarchical
2 operation comprises an operation for copying at least one

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3 file from at least one of a directory and a sub-directory
4 associated with said directory.

1 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said particular
2 hierarchical operation comprises an operation for copying
3 at least one file from a category within a hierarchical
4 structure.

1 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the hierarchical
2 operation comprises at least one of an operation for
3 copying elements of a directory tree, installing
4 software, and scanning digital files for at least one
5 virus.

1 9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the arranging step
2 comprises the step of arranging said plurality of said
3 status indicators in a circular pattern.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the arranging step
2 comprises the step of arranging each said status
3 indicator of said plurality of status indicators in a
4 circular pattern, each said status indicator of said
5 plurality of status indicators defined in said view by an
6 inner diameter, an outer diameter and a length, whereby
7 said length is associated with said status of said
8 particular hierarchical operation.

1 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the arranging step
2 comprises the step of arranging each said status
3 indicator of said plurality of status indicators in a

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4 circular pattern, each said status indicator of said
5 plurality of status indicators defined in said view by an
6 inner diameter, an outer diameter and a length, whereby
7 said length is associated with said status of said
8 particular hierarchical operation, said inner diameter
9 and said outer diameter defining a width for said each
10 said status indicator, whereby said width is adjustable
11 for at least one of said each said status indicator so as
12 to maintain a substantially constant diameter for said
13 circular pattern.

1 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein said data processing
2 system comprises at least one of a server and a client
3 processing unit.

1 13. The method of Claim 1, wherein a control of at least
2 one step of the method comprises a control by a GUI.

1 14. A data processing system for presenting status
2 information associated with a hierarchical operation,
3 comprising:
4 a processor;
5 a memory connected to said processor; and
6 a set of instructions included in said memory, said
7 processor configured to execute said set of instructions
8 to perform the following steps:
9 display a plurality of status indicators in a view,
10 each status indicator of the plurality of status
11 indicators indicating a status of a particular
12 hierarchical operation;

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13 perform said particular hierarchical operation for a
14 corresponding one of said each status indicator; and
15 arrange said plurality of said status indicators in
16 a Z-order layering in said view.

1 15. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein said
2 view comprises a window.

1 16. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein said
2 view comprises a dialog box.

1 17. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein the
2 hierarchical operation comprises a copy operation.

1 18. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein the
2 hierarchical operation comprises an operation for copying
3 a plurality of data files.

1 19. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein the
2 hierarchical operation comprises an operation for copying
3 at least one file from at least one of a directory and a
4 sub-directory associated with said directory.

1 20. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein said
2 particular hierarchical operation comprises an operation
3 for copying at least one file from a category within a
4 hierarchical structure.

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1 21. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein the
2 hierarchical operation comprises at least one of an
3 operation for copying elements of a directory tree,
4 installing software, and scanning digital files for at
5 least one virus.

1 22. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein the
2 instruction to arrange comprises instruction to arrange
3 said plurality of said status indicators in a circular
4 pattern.

1 23. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein the
2 instruction to arrange comprises instruction to arrange
3 each said status indicator of said plurality of status
4 indicators in a circular pattern, each said status
5 indicator of said plurality of status indicators defined
6 in said view by an inner diameter, an outer diameter and
7 a length, whereby said length is associated with said
8 status of said particular hierarchical operation.

1 24. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein the
2 instruction to arrange comprises instruction to arrange
3 each said status indicator of said plurality of status
4 indicators in a circular pattern, each said status
5 indicator of said plurality of status indicators defined
6 in said view by an inner diameter, an outer diameter and
7 a length, whereby said length is associated with said
8 status of said particular hierarchical operation, said
9 inner diameter and said outer diameter defining a width
10 for said each said status indicator, whereby said width

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11 is adjustable for at least one of said each said status
12 indicator so as to maintain a substantially constant
13 diameter for said circular pattern.

1 25. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein said
2 data processing system comprises at least one of a server
3 and a client processing unit.

1 26. The data processing system of Claim 14, wherein a
2 control of at least one step of the instructions
3 comprises a control by a GUI.

1 27. A computer program product on a computer readable
2 medium, said computer program product comprising:
3 first instructions for displaying a plurality of
4 status indicators in a view, each status indicator of the
5 plurality of status indicators indicating a status of a
6 particular hierarchical operation, said particular
7 hierarchical operation being performed for a
8 corresponding one of said each status indicator; and
9 second instructions for arranging said plurality of
10 said status indicators in a Z-order layering in said
11 view.

1 28. The computer program product of Claim 27, wherein
2 the second instructions comprise sub-instructions for
3 arranging each said status indicator of said plurality of
4 status indicators in a circular pattern, each said status
5 indicator of said plurality of status indicators defined
6 in said view by an inner diameter, an outer diameter and

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7 a length, whereby said length is associated with said
8 status of said particular hierarchical operation.

1 29. The computer program product of Claim 27, wherein
2 the second instructions comprise sub-instructions for
3 arranging each said status indicator of said plurality of
4 status indicators in a circular pattern, each said status
5 indicator of said plurality of status indicators defined
6 in said view by an inner diameter, an outer diameter and
7 a length, whereby said length is associated with said
8 status of said particular hierarchical operation, said
9 inner diameter and said outer diameter defining a width
10 for said each said status indicator, and whereby said
11 width is adjustable for at least one of said each said
12 status indicator so as to maintain a substantially
13 constant diameter for said circular pattern.

1 30. The computer program product of Claim 27, wherein
2 the hierarchical operation comprises at least one of an
3 operation for copying elements of a directory tree,
4 installing software, and scanning digital files for at
5 least one virus.